

Make no mistake, the Confederate battle flag is a symbol of hate and racism. The Calvert amendment would allow for the display and sale of this symbol of hate at our national parks and Federal cemeteries. That is outrageous.

This flag speaks to one of the darkest moments in our Nation's history, and its display and sale in our national parks is simply unconscionable. Today, our Nation still grieves the tragedy in Charleston, and we remember the nine lives that were tragically cut short by a person whose sole goal was hate and division.

The South Carolina Legislature voted last night in a bipartisan way to take down the Confederate battle flag from the statehouse. Likewise, major retailers have removed this symbol of hate from their shelves. Yet my Republican colleagues want to return it to our national parks and Federal cemeteries. This is simply outrageous.

It is past time for our Nation to get serious about putting away not only these hateful symbols, but ensuring liberty and justice for all. It is past time to take it down.

NATURAL GAS

(Mr. ROUZER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, as a result of the shale energy revolution, America has moved from a posture of energy scarcity to one of energy abundance. This shift is helping to drive economic growth, environmental stewardship, and greater energy security. However, without the acceleration of natural gas infrastructure in all regions of the country, only a few will benefit.

A large interstate gas transmission project has been proposed to bring this affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy source to southeastern North Carolina, and with it the potential for economic growth in some of our State's most economically challenged and rural areas.

We are blessed with the natural resources and innovations in technology to be the energy capital of the world, which would drive economic growth to new heights. The Congress must put into place rational and predictable regulatory structures that create a more stable climate for the natural gas industry.

I urge my colleagues to support policy solutions that will lead to energy independence and economic growth for America.

CONFEDERATE FLAG DOES NOT REPRESENT AMERICA

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we have children to educate, and we have children to love and to have them to

understand what America is all about. We are southerners and northerners. We come from the East and the West. We love our cooking, we love our culture, but we are Americans. So today I ask this body to allow us to debate this question to a resolution that enhances American unity.

The Supreme Court issued a statement in *Walker v. Sons of Confederate Veterans*, a Texas case. Before the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles, early on, as just a civilian, I argued against Confederate license plates. We won that case. The Supreme Court said that public speech that offends or oppresses is not allowed.

I am not talking about the flag on your car or your home, but I am saying that this rebel flag does not represent America, does not teach our children, and it does not heal. And I would offer to say that we are long overdue for a debate like that in the senate in South Carolina, to follow Reverend Pinckney's words that we have to know how to break the cycle and of a roadway toward a better world. He knew that a path of greatness involves an open mind, but more importantly, an open heart.

I hope we can debate H. Res. 342, which enhances the unity of our country, not this flag.

HONORING CHARLES "CHUCK" HARMON

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, on July 14, Cincinnati will host the Major League Baseball All-Star Game, and I want to take the opportunity to recognize a famous Redleg, Charles "Chuck" Harmon, the first African American to play for the Cincinnati Reds.

Chuck Harmon paved the way for many African American major league baseball players, like fellow Redleg Frank Robinson, who credits Harmon as helping launch his career.

Mr. Harmon entered the 1954 season on April 17 as a right-handed infielder with the Reds. With a .242 batting average during his Reds career, he was also known as the fastest player on the team during his rookie season.

Ohio's Second District continues to celebrate Mr. Harmon's legacy by celebrating his career at the Great American Ball Park at the All-Star game 50 years after his first at bat, by renaming a street in his hometown of Golf Manor to Chuck Harmon Way, and by unveiling a statue for the Reds Urban Youth Academy in Roselawn.

Thank you, Chuck Harmon, for your pioneering contributions to breaking the color barrier in our Nation's pastime. Your accomplishments will forever be recognized by generations of Americans to come.

TAKE DOWN THE CONFEDERATE FLAG

(Mr. CARTWRIGHT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I awoke this morning to find news that last night, in the wee hours, House Republican leadership advanced an amendment to allow the display of the Confederate battle flag in Federal cemeteries and to allow National Park Service agents to do business with gift shops that sell Confederate battle flags.

Mr. Speaker, at a time when South Carolina, itself the cradle of the Confederacy, has outlawed the flying of the Confederate battle flag on their statehouse grounds, at a time when all Americans were horrified at the slaughter of nine churchgoers by an individual motivated by that battle flag, at a time when everyone understands and acknowledges that it is a symbol of hate, we find the House Republican leadership wrapping itself in the Confederate battle flag. I object to this.

ENSURING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR HUMANITY

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, early this year, I had the opportunity to meet with Ambassador David Saperstein, the U.S. Ambassador At Large for International Religious Freedom. He is tasked with leading America's fight against religious persecution throughout the world. This is a significant mandate, especially in the Middle East, where Christian, Jewish, and minority Muslim communities that have been settled in the same areas for millennia are being uprooted, subjugated, and murdered.

These aren't acts of geopolitical jockeying or even political domination. These are acts of pure, unadulterated evil perpetuated by those of dark and wicked souls.

Fundamental American values, among which are commitments to religious freedom and human rights, will always be the cornerstone of this Nation's foreign policy.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 1150, the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, because now, more than ever, we need to ensure that former Congressman Frank Wolf's landmark legislation is updated for the 21st century to be able to give us the best tools to promote religious freedom around the globe.

I thank Ambassador Saperstein for his work.

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REMOVE CONFEDERATE FLAGS FROM OUR NATIONAL PARKS

(Mr. HAHN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)